

many sorts press upon us until to reserve even a little time for it becomes rare. This or that excuse is allowed to justify neglect of it until, insensibly yet really, we have grown to regard it as of minor consequence. Moreover, not a few declare frankly that it is not essential to true godliness. They might as truly urge that the mutual knowledge and love of a mother and child would not weaken if they were never to meet and converse. But the testimony of Christian history is conclusive. The purest, noblest, holiest souls—those whom even the most careless of us all can not help revering—have been those who have lived in the closet fellowship, the most regular and intimate devotional union, with the Almighty. Have we not in our own experience, too, some memorable hour when we have tasted of the blessedness of being, as it were, face to face with the divine Father, when his word has taken on a new richness and pertinence of meaning as we have studied it by ourselves, and we have talked with him in prayer with a precious freedom never possible in the presence of others, no matter how sympathetic? We may—we ought to—have such an experience frequently. To neglect private devotions means loss and sorrow incalculable.

The Mission Field

Washington, D. C.

To all who love the Lord: For the past two months the necessary expenditures of this mission have been much greater than the receipts, thereby causing inconvenience and unpleasantness. At the request of others I make this public statement, trusting that the Lord may impress it upon the hearts of his people to make an offering without delay and place us on our feet again. I trust the time will soon come when the missionary will not have to make such statements. If all of those congregations that have not contributed lately will make a small offering, it will be an easy matter, it will bring joy and blessing, save the unpleasantness of further reference to these things, and your unworthy servant the disagreeable task of another personal canvass among the congregations, and the good work may go on unhindered.

If we can be relieved from financial strain we expect soon to be able to report some very gratifying news. Let all who love the Lord in sincerity pray for a speedy deliverance. "What thou doest do quickly."

Your servant in the gospel.

W. M. LYON.

315 9th St., S. E.

GO YE THEREFORE AND TEACH ALL NATIONS

ETTA JUDY

Among the last words spoken by our Savior we find these, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations whatsoever I have commanded you." This commission was given to all who believe on him. If we wish to be classed among that number we should obey all his commandments, for "No man cometh unto the Father except by him."

Christ is the greatest missionary. He was sent from heaven to earth, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life." Some seem to think we can not be missionaries without going to China, India or some foreign field. This is a wrong conception of Christ and his labors. We find that our Master preached the will of God in what country he was or by whom surrounded. He could find in his native land those who were sinners and I dare say, each one of us can find a similar work in our own city, town or neighborhood if we open our eyes along that line. We can be missionaries first at home, then in our neighborhood and then in the city in which we live.

Our own town of Falls City has in it idolatry and iniquity as intense, if not as extensive, as any of our great cities or vast heathen continents. Souls saved here are just as precious in the sight of God as in great cities or foreign lands.

Our King's Children society is a missionary organization and as such we should feel an interest in the whole world, and that includes Falls City. There are so many boys and girls going to destruction. How many of us are making an effort to lend them a helping hand.

By the kindly help of the S. S. C. E., quite a number of the children of our town have been clothed and brought into the Sunday school and church, and there are many more who would gladly come if our purses were large enough and the laborers numerous enough to supply their needs.

On the other hand our work at home should not consume all our effort or ability. Foreign fields need workers and supporters. If we read missionary papers on life in India and other foreign fields we feel we would rather be any where else than there, and if our zeal for Christ be great we will desire their spiritual elevation as well as our own. The mortality among foreign children is very great. Their food is of the coarsest kind and often utterly unfit for human consumption. Hindo children are timid and as a rule it may be said to their credit that they are respectful to their parents and well behaved in public—this is more than can be said of many of the children of this Christian land. Among the tribe known as the Ganges if any of their number is unusually well behaved they are worshipped as gods.

In view of all this can we get away from our responsibility to "preach the gospel to every creature?"

Falls City, Neb.

The Word Opened

QUERIES AND ANSWERS

May the Brethren, and others who hold the doctrine of non-resistance, consistently fill such offices as justice of the peace, constable, sheriff, etc.?

We fail to see any inconsistency for a non-resistant people to fill such offices. If it is inconsistent for the Brethren (a peace peo-

ple) to hold such offices then it is equally inconsistent to exercise the right of the ballot, or to invoke the aid of the law in any case. It is better to have Christian people fill such offices than those not Christians. We have personal knowledge of a good Christian who has held the office of justice of the peace for a score of years or more, and dozens of cases have been settled during his incumbency without a lawsuit which would otherwise have gone to court. Whatever our peace principles may be we have need of the law, and it is always more pleasant to invoke the aid of the law when its executive is a Christian. When the jailer became a Christian it is not said that he quit the office, but surely he was a better officer after than before he became a Christian. If we could get good Christian people to fill all our public offices from the least to the highest in the gift of the people there would soon be a very marked advance in the progress of our Christian civilization. Imagine the result if our Congress were made up of true, earnest, sincere, praying, Bible reading people. If we had it to do only Christians could hold such offices. A nation which is professedly Christian should not have the affairs of state administered by men who have no faith either in the church, in Christ or in God. To our mind it seems far more inconsistent to have the unbelieving administer the affairs of a Christian nation than to have a peace loving Christian people do so. By all means get Christian people to fill places of trust and public offices. This we believe to be entirely in harmony with the teachings of the word of God. In Romans 13 the apostle Paul sets forth the Christian's relation to the powers that be. Paul recognizes government as of God, and rulers as "ministers of God to thee for good." This must not be interpreted to mean that every law is a righteous law, but that God himself is the author of government, and that he uses such government to his own honor and glory. The idea that human government is to be administered by the unbelieving and that Christians should have no connection with civil affairs is founded upon a wrong conception of the design and purpose of government. Even in the punishment of the evil doer Paul declares the ruler a "minister of God." And for this very cause he advises obedience and subjection to the powers that be, even the payment of tribute with which to support the government.

The Bible First

Whatever other books you read or neglect to read, let me entreat you to give yourselves thoroughly and systematically to the mastery of that which is the oldest, the greatest, and the best of all—the Bible. Our literature owes more to it than to any other, and however literary we may be, we shall only enjoy it the more. Here are the earliest histories, the noblest lyrics, the loftiest philosophy, the most honest biographies, and the most earnest letters that were ever penned. And besides all these other attractions here is the portraiture of perfect life, the exposition of